

CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GEORGIA
South Fulton Service Center Auditorium, 5600 Stonewall Tell Road
Tuesday, August 1, 2017, 5:00PM



The Honorable William “Bill” Edwards, Mayor (present)
The Honorable Catherine F. Rowell, District 1, Mayor Pro Tem (present)
The Honorable Carmalitha Gumbs, District 2 Councilmember (present)
The Honorable Helen Z. Willis, District 3 Councilmember (present)
The Honorable Naeema Gilyard, District 4 Councilmember (present)
The Honorable Rosie Jackson, District 5 Councilmember (present)
The Honorable khalid kamau, District 6 Councilmember (present)
The Honorable Mark Baker, District 7 Councilmember (present)

WORK SESSION MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Edwards at 5:00pm. The roll was called and a quorum was present.

1. Municipal Court – Next Steps

The meeting began with a PowerPoint presentation from the Interim City Attorney Josh Belinfante regarding Municipal Courts. Following his presentation was a question and answer segment from the City Council.

Mayor Edwards indicated they had been given a document of costs for what the State Court would charge for serving as the Municipal Court.

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Mayor Pro Tem Rowell requested checking the feasibility study that was done based on running a Municipal Court, including rationale on size, population and anticipated case load as a comparative.

Councilmember Gilyard recommended the City Attorney and the City Manager work together on the pros and cons of going with the County or doing the Municipal Court ourselves, and take a look at the work of the People's Campaign.

A motion was made by Councilmember Willis and seconded by Councilmember Baker to direct the City Manager to move forward with scheduling the Panel of appointees for the Judicial Panel, to proceed with interviewing the fourteen (14) Municipal Judge applications, and to request the Panel to share with the entire Council the questions that will be asked. A friendly amendment was made by Mayor Pro Tem Rowell to submit the top three candidates by the end of August (8/31). The friendly amendment was accepted. Then the motion was restated to have the process completed by August 15th. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0-0.

2. Fulton County Transit Master Plan Process

Fulton County COO, Todd Long, began the discussion by giving a general history of the Transit Master Plan (Countywide study funded by ARC). He indicated that ultimately these projects need to be presented to the voters. He introduced the lead consultant on the job, Kimley-Horn consultant Eric Bosman, so that he could explain the details of the independent study process that is being conducted with all of the 14 cities, except Atlanta. Todd Long further explained that a Transit Governance Committee was established by the State House of Representatives to look at transportation, not just in Fulton County. The Committee will be looking at how Transit should be governed and financed statewide. MARTA participates on the steering committee.

Eric Bosman began by presenting a PowerPoint presentation of the 40-year study of how the County and the Cities plan to grow. He explained the work that had been done so far, and he indicated that they were planning to hold a Public Hearing in South Fulton on August 14, 2017, 6:30pm at the South Fulton Service Center. He ended his presentation indicating that more information and project updates can be found by visiting the website at <http://www.fultoncountyga.gov/tmp-home>.

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Councilmember Jackson requested MARTA bus service to start going down Flat Shoals.

Councilmember Willis expressed concerns about the Trash cans, trash and a lack of huts at the MARTA bus routes, namely in the Welcome All area.

Todd Long advised Council about a planned visit (day trip) to Los Angeles to see what they have been able to accomplish in the area of transportation at the end of August.

A motion was made by Councilmember Willis and seconded by Councilmember Jackson to allow/proceed with a public hearing on this Transit Master Plan presentation to take place on August 14, 2017, 6:30pm, South Fulton Service Center, 5600 Stonewall Tell Road. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0-0.

Mayor Pro Tem Rowell requested that we partner with surrounding Counties, including Douglas County, on some of these projects especially with regard to rail options.

Mayor Edwards asked where the Fulton Industrial Boulevard area is covered in this plan, namely the rail plans that were drawn many years ago. He is also concerned about the MARTA bus routes no longer riding into the back parts of the industrial areas. Lastly, he asked for additional build out of Deceleration (decel) lanes for buses to be able to pull-over.

Councilmember Willis indicated that she hopes that the sentiments expressed during the meeting will be heard and information provided for the public during the public hearing on August 14th.

Following the Transit Plan Presentation, Councilwoman Gilyard requested Council to allow the representatives from Elite Sports to make a presentation.

A presentation was made by Mr. Wil Settle, Vice-Chair of the Advisory Board for Elite Sports ATL. He also introduced Mr. Tony Leonard, CEO Elite Sports ATL, and Mrs. Iris Settle, Executive Director, Elite Dreams Foundation.

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3. Next Meeting (August 8, 2017) Agenda Items

The City Manager indicated that there are not a lot of action items for August 8 Meeting, but there are some Reporting items. Staff is beginning to have reviews in advance of Ordinances being proposed by departments and Finance, at the Council's request. The cover sheets will be used beginning the August 8 meeting to give a brief synopsis of each agenda item.

Councilmember Gilyard asked for the deadline for bringing agenda items forward. The City Manager indicated that the deadline is on Wednesday, prior to the Friday agenda packet.

Councilmember Gumbs requested someone to speak with Council regarding all of the trash dumping that is occurring within the community.

Mayor Edwards indicated that he wants to bring Fulton County to a meeting to give the City a synopsis of all services being provided by the County, especially Police.

Councilmember Jackson indicated that there is broken equipment (in the area of trash pickup) and suggested having some type of contractual agreement to fix these types of problems.

Mayor Pro Tem Rowell indicated that she believed that the City Attorney was identifying the Ordinances that would be available for consideration by Council, and she wants a presentation from Fulton County Schools at a work session to brief the Council on the Schools Crossing Guard program.

The City Attorney explained the general review process and approval of language, and he indicated that he will be asking the City Council to ratify a decision that was made at the last meeting regarding Personnel, namely for legal purposes.

Mayor Pro Tem Rowell requested to see the Smart Cities resolution and a Budget resolution, plus a companion resolution relative to reserve funds.

Councilmember Baker expressed concerns with vacancies at the County and the delays on responding to the trash concerns.

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Councilmember Jackson expressed concerns with Police vacancies or staffing, when there are a number of employees sitting behind desks who can put on uniforms and go out into the field.

Councilmember khalid indicated that the Police department was planning to answer some of these questions during their presentation on Thursday. He also recommended using the Police Departments roadmap for all other departments. He was concerned last week with the need for decals for vehicles and the related expenditures.

Councilmember Gilyard wants to know more information about all the City departments, how they function and the employees needed.

Mayor Edwards then allowed each Councilmember to make comments regarding district activities, whereupon each member gave comments.

Mayor Edwards indicated that many will be at the Fulton County BOC meeting to speak about the Fulton County Tax Commissioner's ability to collect taxes for the City of South Fulton tomorrow at 10am and he invited citizens to participate in National Night Out later that evening. Councilmember Gilyard indicated that they can also come to the South Fulton Service Center at 10am and they will be patched into the meeting tomorrow from this facility, and be allowed to make public comment.

A motion was made by Councilmember Willis and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Rowell to adjourn. Hearing no objections, the motion passed unanimously, 7-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28pm.
